

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-04 FEAE-00 COME-00 IO-04 PC-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI, TO

SUBJECT: TOGOLESE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

SUMMARY: TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA PAID SUCCESSFUL SEVEN-DAY VISIT TO NIGERIA (OCTOBER 21-27). IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING TIMING OF NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (SEPTTEL), COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT END OF TRIP STRESSES COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. TOGOLESE PRESIDENT EYADEMA PAID SEVEN-DAY STATE VISIT TO NIGERIA INCLUDING VISITS WITH GOWON TO BENUE-PLATEAU AND MID-WESTERN STATES.

2. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION OF ECOWAS, JOINT COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT END OF EYADEMA'S VISIT COVERED BOTH BILATERAL AND GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED FMG ASSURANCE TO SUPPLY GOT WITH SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF CRUDE OIL FOR REFINERY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN LOME. GOVERNMENT OF TOGO WOULD SUPPLY FMG WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROCK PHOSPHATE. IN ADDITION, EXISTING CULTURAL

COOPERATION WOULD BE FORMALIZED AND EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ARE TO BE INCREASED. ON INTERNATIONAL PLANE, HEADS OF STATE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE IN DECOLONIZATION OF AFRICA; ADDRESSED STRONG APPEAL FOR UNITY TO ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS; TOOK NOTE OF POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF NEW PORTUGUESE REGIMES AND CONDEMNED RACISTS AND COLONIAL REGIME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HEADS OF STATE FURTHER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CURRENT MIDDLE EAST EFFORTS WOULD LEAD TO RESTORATION OF LASTING PEACE AND THEY STRESSED NEED FOR NEW ECONOMIC ORDER CAPABLE OF PUTTING AN END TO ADVERSE MOVEMENT OF TRADE AND INSURING EQUITABLE PRICING TO PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS.

3. IN PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE EYADEMA, IN ADDITION TO REFERRING TO ECOWAS, EMPHASIZED NEED FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM TO BACK UP POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, DEFENDED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SEIZURE OF PHOSPATE INDUSTRY IN TOGO AND ATTACKED "IMPERIALISTS" FOR MASTERMINDING HIS RECENT AIRPLANE CRASH BECAUSE HE REFUSED BRIBE. HE FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT VISA FORMALITIES BETWEEN TOGO AND NIGERIA WOULD BE REMOVED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER ROCK PHOSPHATE WOULD BE EXCHANGED DIRECTLY FOR CRUDE OIL, AND NO SUCH SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE.

5. FMG MADE EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE GOOD RECEPTION FOR EYADEMA AND GOWON'S CONSTATN PRESENCE WITH HIM DURING ENTIRE TRIP SUGGESTS FMG DECISION TO CULTIVATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE PRIMARY FRANCOPHONE SUPPORTER OF ECOWAS. PRES GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO HIS TRIP AND LAUDED NIGERIAN-TOGO INITIATE ON ECOWAS, URGING THAT COMMUNITY BE RAPIDLY ESTABLISHED.
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